

**MARK A. LITMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.A.**

**United States Patent Application**

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **SHUFFLING APPARATUS AND METHOD.** The specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (attached hereto). I also acknowledge my duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability which became available between a filing date of a prior application and the national or PCT international filing date in the event this is a Continuation-In-Part application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

**PCT Application Serial No. PCT/AU98/00157 filed March 13, 1998 in Australia .**

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

**No such claim for priority is being made at this time.**

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 or 365(c) of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**This application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/919,596 filed July 31, 2001 for COLLATING AND SORTING APPARATUS; which in turn, is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/380,943 filed September 13, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,267,248 for COLLATING AND SORTING APPARATUS which is based on PCT Application Serial No. PCT/AU98/00157 filed March 13, 1998 in Australia.**

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or patent agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith:

Litman, Mark A.	Reg. No. 26,390
Farrar, Jennifer K.	Reg. No. 34,775*

I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization/who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Mark A. Litman to the contrary.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to **Mark A. Litman & Associates, P.A.** at the address indicated below:

**3209 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
York Business Center, Suite 205  
Edina, MN 55435  
Telephone No. (952) 832-9090**

**\*\*Jennifer K. Farrar is not a member of Mark A. Litman & Associates, P.A.**

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: **Rodney G. Johnson**

Citizenship: **Australia** Residence: **13 Grenaside Court, Robina, Queensland 4226 Australia**

Post Office Address: **Post Office Box 231, Robina, Queensland 4226 Australia**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney G. Johnson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
  - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
  - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, Rodney G. Johnson, residing at 13 Grenaside Court, Robina, Queensland 4226 Australia, made certain new and useful inventions and improvements for which I executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States, which is entitled: SHUFFLING APPARATUS AND METHOD and assigned Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, I hereby authorize the Assignee to insert the serial number and filing date into this instrument once the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has assigned this information to the application.

AND WHEREAS, Shuffle Master, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Minnesota, and having an office and place of business at 1106 Palms Airport Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 (hereinafter "Assignee") is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said inventions, improvements and application and in and to the Letters Patent to be obtained therefor;

NOW, THEREFORE, to all whom it may concern, be it known that for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, I have sold, assigned, and transferred, and by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said Assignee, its successors or assigns, the entire right, title and interest for all countries in and to all inventions and improvements disclosed in the aforesaid application, and in and to the said application, all divisions, continuations, continuations-in-part, or renewals thereof, all Letters Patent which may be granted therefrom, and all reissues or extensions of such patents, and in and to any and all applications which have been or shall be filed in any foreign countries for Letters Patent on the said inventions and improvements, including an assignment of all rights under the provisions of the International Convention, and all Letters Patent of foreign countries which may be granted therefrom; and I do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any and all United States Letters Patent for the aforesaid inventions and improvements to the said Assignee as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the use of the said Assignee, its successors and assigns.

AND, for the consideration aforesaid, I do hereby agree that I and my executors and legal representatives will make, execute and deliver any and all other instruments in writing including any and all further application papers, affidavits, assignments and other documents, and will communicate to said Assignee, its successors and representatives all facts known to us relating to

said improvements and the history thereof and will testify in all legal proceedings and generally do all things which may be necessary or desirable more effectually to secure to and vest in said Assignee, its successors or assigns the entire right, title and interest in and to the said improvements, inventions, applications, Letters Patent, rights, titles, benefits, privileges and advantages hereby sold, assigned and conveyed, or intended so to be.

AND, furthermore we covenant and agree with said Assignee, its successors and assigns, that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been made to others by me and that full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by me.

I hereby appoint Shuffle Master, Inc. and its attorneys Attorney in Fact to prosecute this application and all future continuation applications, continuations-in-part applications, divisional applications, reexamination or reissue thereof and any and all future related applications and issued patents thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney G. Johnson

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )ss.  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ )

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003 before me personally appeared **Rodney G. Johnson**, to me known and known to me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and he duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the uses and purposes therein set forth

[SEAL]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public